

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00065 100851Z

17

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 NEA-09 IO-10 ACDA-10 SR-02 ORM-01 OMB-01

SAM-01 SCCT-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 SAB-01 /106 W

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R 091504Z JAN 75 ZFG

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9085

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

UNCLAS SOFIA 0065

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, BU, GR

SUBJECT: GREEK FONMIN BITSIOS' VISIT - FIRST DAY

REF: ATHENS 9072

1. SUMMARY: OFFICIAL VISIT BY GREEK FONMIN BITSIOS RECEIVING MAJOR ATTENTION HERE IN LINE WITH BULGARIAN EMPHASIS ON GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY IN BALKANS. THEME THUS FAR IS GOOD EXISTING RELATIONS AND INTENTION TO STILL FURTHER IMPROVE AND EXPAND THEM. CYPRUS AND MIDDLE EAST SITUATION HAVE RECEIVED SPECIFIC PUBLIC COMMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. BITSIOS' AIRPORT ARRIVAL JANUARY 8 RECEIVED PROMINENT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 SOFIA 00065 100851Z

COVERAGE ON TV SAME DAY. MAJOR COVERAGE GIVEN EVENTS OF

FIRST DAY IN JANUARY 9 PRESS. BCP OFFICIAL PAPER
RABOTNICHESKO DELO (RD) CARRIED FRONT PAGE PICTURE OF ARRIVAL
AND EXTENSIVE QUOTATIONS FROM STATEMENTS FOLLOWING FIRST
MEETING WITH FONMIN MLADENOV AND FROM DINNER TOASTS AS
WELL AS ATHENS INTERVIEW WITH BITSIOS AND EXCERPTS FROM
GREEK PRESS ADVANCE COMMENTS ON VISIT. RD THEN WRAPPED IT
ALL UP WITH EDITORIAL ON GREEK-BULGARIAN RELATIONS.

3. PUBLIC EMPHASIS IS ON GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY IN BALKANS,
AN INCREASINGLY FAVORITE THEME OF BULGARIANS. BOTH SIDES
ARE STRESSING WILLINGNESS TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND EXISTING
TIES. BITSIOS IN TOAST STATED HE WISHED TO EMPHASIZE
THAT HE WAS "ESPECIALLY HAPPY" THAT BULGARIA WAS HIS FIRST
VISIT ABROAD SINCE BECOMING FONMIN.

4. CYPRUS SITUATION RECEIVING SPECIAL ATTENTION. IN
STATEMENT FOLLOWING FIRST MEETING, BITSIOS REPORTEDLY SAID,
"I HIGHLY APPRECIATE THE POSITION OF MY COLLEAGUE MINISTER
MLADENOV -- AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT --
ON THE CYPRUS SITUATION". IN DINNER TOAST MLADENOV CALLED
FOR SOLUTION OF PROBLEM WITHOUT THREAT OR USE OF FORCE,
PRESERVATION OF INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, AND TERRITORIAL
INTEGRITY OF CYPRUS, "STRICT" COMPLIANCE WITH UN RESOLUTIONS,
WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS, AND RETURN OF REFUGEES TO
THEIR HOMES WITH GUARANTEE OF THEIR SECURITY.

5. BITSIOS REPLIED IN HIS TOAST THAT POSITION OF BOTH
COUNTRIES ON CYPRUS WAS REAFFIRMATION OF SHARED BELIEF
IN PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. HE ALSO CALLED FOR
WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN TROOPS FROM CYPRUS AND SWIFT RETURN
TO REFUGEES TO THEIR HOMES.

6. IN TOASTS MLADENOV CALLED FOR RECONVENING OF GENEVA
CONFERENCE WITH EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF PLO AS "SOLE
LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE" OF PALESTINIAN ARABS, WHILE BITSIOS
MADE MORE GENERAL REMARKS ON NEED FOR JUST AND LASTING
PEACE IN NEAR EAST ALONG BASIC LINES LAID DOWN BY UN.
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